University of Rochester – PSC 101/IR 101
Fall 2013
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12-12:50 pm
Lattimore 201

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Meguid
Office: 306 Harkness Hall
Phone Number: 275-2338
Email: bonnie.meguid@rochester.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 2-4pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
Sergio Ascencio (sascenci@z.rochester.edu) O.H.: Tuesdays 2:30-4pm, Harkness 338
Chit Basu (cbasu@z.rochester.edu) O.H.: Thursdays 10-11:30am, Harkness 316
Rabia Malik (rabia.malik@rochester.edu) O.H.: Mondays 10-11:30am, Harkness 316
Mattan Sharkansky (mattan.sharkansky@rochester.edu) O.H.: Wednesdays 10-11:30am,
Harkness 338

Course Description
This course will introduce students to comparative politics – the study of domestic political institutions, processes, and outcomes across and within countries. These important themes and concepts of contemporary comparative politics include the vibrancy of democracy, the centrality of political and electoral institutions, the possibility of revolution and the power of ethnicity. Cases will be drawn from different countries and historical periods to give students a grounding in the method of comparative analysis. This course is recommended for those thinking about a major, minor, or cluster in political science or international relations and others who are simply interested in learning more about the politics of developed and developing countries.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to attend lectures every Monday and Wednesday and keep up with the readings. All students will be assigned to a section which meets once a week (most likely on Thursday or on Friday). Attendance is mandatory. Sections will serve as an opportunity to discuss the readings and thus, regular and active participation is expected. Participation in section will count for 20% of the final grade. An in-class midterm examination will be worth 35% and a final examination will count for 45% of the final grade. According to the Registrar’s website (http://www.rochester.edu/Registrar/pdf/FinalExams_fall2013.pdf), the final exam will tentatively be held Wednesday, December 18 at 7:15pm. However, because exam schedules can change, DO NOT arrange to leave for break before the end of the exam period. Barring extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up midterm or final exams.
An optional 5-7 page paper on the Institutions weeks’ readings can be written for extra credit. The paper topic will be handed out November 18 and due by 3pm on November 26 (hard copy only, no email submissions accepted). If interested, please contact Professor Meguid.

Readings
In this course, we will read a combination of books, book chapters and journal articles. The books are available for purchase at the Bookstore or, alternatively, are on reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Journal articles and chapters in edited volumes are accessible through the Library’s electronic reserves on Blackboard.

Texts available for purchase at the Bookstore


Wednesday, Sept 4: Course Introduction

September 6 and 9: What is Democracy?


September 11, 13, and 16: How does Democracy Come About? Theories of Democratization


**September 18, 23 and 25: Democracy and Democratization: Cases**


**September 30 and October 2: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict: Theories**


**NB: No class Monday, October 7: Fall Break**

**October 9, 14 and 16: Ethnic Conflict: The Case of Yugoslavia**


October 21 and 23: Revolutions


October 28 and 30: Revolutions around the World: Cases


November 4: Midterm review
No new readings

November 6: In-class MIDTERM

November 11 and 13: Do Institutions Matter? Presidentialism versus Parliamentarism


November 18 and 20: Do Institutions Matter? Electoral Systems


Quentin Quade, “PR and Democratic Statecraft,” in Diamond and Plattner (eds), The Global Resurgence of Democracy, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 181-186


November 25: Do Institutions Matter? Political Party Systems


No class November 27

December 2 and 4: Politics and Culture: From Civic Culture to Social Capital


December 9 and 11: Politics and Culture: From Civic Culture to Social Capital (cases)


**Note: There is a cumulative final exam. See Registrar's website for date and time.**